

02-277

From: Anne Holder
To: Kathleen Abernathy
Date: Wed, Apr 30, 2003 4:47 PM
Subject: Consolidation of media

Dear FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy,

As a community college professor and personal news junkie, I am asking you to please halt any further "deregulation" of the media. The narrowness of coverage is such that most young people do not pay attention to news of any kind, and while some factions may find that disinterest beneficial, it is creating havoc with their minds and their ability to learn. While most are fairly bitter about Clear Channel, they have no idea what a constricted view of other information they receive these days.

The only thing that helped me survive the pathetic mainstream coverage of the "war" on Iraq was access to alternative sources of news, as well as some of the most brilliant analyses I've ever read--from both conservative and liberal correspondents. While for me, it was a time of genuine learning and thought, for my students on this border--most too poor to afford computers for Internet access (though some had read the Mexican newspapers)--the news was "boring" and not unlike the pep rallies they'd just left in high school. Unfortunately my subject matter didn't allow me to communicate most of what I had learned. What a sad statement of American "freedoms."

I urge you to continue the democratic tradition of broadcasting those views that conform with administrative policy as well as those that challenge it.

Thank you so much for your attention.

Anne Holder
504 Marthmont
El Paso TX 79912
afhholder@yahoo.com

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From: Joanne Johnson
To: Mike Powell
Date: Wed, Apr 30, 2003 6:05 PM
Subject: FCC deregulation proposal

Michael K. Powell

I have only just become aware of the FCC's pending vote on further deregulation of the media.

I can only think this is a sad thing for our country.

When I was in school I was taught that the airwaves were for the people and the FCC had the responsibility of regulating them.

The media is so monopolized by corporate and commercial business that I simply cannot believe the FCC would consider further deregulation.

I sincerely hope the commissioners of the FCC will consider the people of the United States and the airwaves that we thought belonged to us.

Please keep them open to all and not owned and programmed only by the corporations.

We all lose with more deregulation.

With deregulation lose our artists, our culture, our creativity, our independence.

Most sincerely,
Joanne Johnson

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From: Halfwog@aol.com
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Wed, Apr 30, 2003 6:43 PM
Subject: NO MEDIA MONOPOLIES!!

To whom it may concern:

A free country demands a free press. Do not allow the media conglomerates to control the media and destroy America's right to free speech.

Best,
Claire Clarke
Phoenix, AZ
halfwog@aol.com

From: Halfwog@aol.com
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein
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Best,
Claire Clarke
Phoenix, AZ
halfwog@aol.com

From: deborahleebe@attbi.com
To: Mike Powell
Date: Wed, Apr 30, 2003 6:55 PM
Subject: FCC Deregulation

I oppose the continued reregulation of the Communications Industry. It is already difficult to find any accuracy in reporting from any of the "media giants." Control of the airwaves is a means of controlling the national agenda by individuals with an agenda. Keep debate alive and America free.

Thank you.

Deborah Beck

--

"Let them call me a rebel and I welcome it, I feel no concern from it; but I should suffer the misery of demons were I to make a whore of my soul."

--Thomas Paine

Deb

From: Marie Grace
To: Mike Powell
Date: Wed, Apr 30, 2003 7:15 PM
Subject: Preserve Diversity and Media Ownership Limits - DO NOT Remove Remaining Regulatory Limits on Corporations

Marie Grace
49 Fillmer
Los Gatos, CA 95032

April 30, 2003

Chairman, Federal Communications Commission Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street., SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman, Federal Communications Commission Powell:

The FCC must NOT further weaken the rules that help preserve competition and diversity among the owners of American media.

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

The FCC is currently considering sweeping changes to broadcast ownership rules. Repeal of or further modification to these rules will likely open the door to more mergers that will continue to reduce competition and diversity in the media. If the rules are weakened further, one company in a city could control the most popular newspaper, TV station and possibly the cable system, giving it dominant influence over the content and slant of news and information. Such a move would reduce the diversity of cultural and political discussion in this country. Media ownership would be concentrated by corporate monopolies even further, and the public's ability to have open, informed discussion with diverse viewpoints would be compromised.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. While there may be indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become more limited.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

I think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Sincerely,

Marie Grace

From: Mike Keefe-Feldman
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Wed, Apr 30, 2003 7:32 PM
Subject: No More Media Deregulation

Dear FCC,

I'm sure you're aware that your upcoming decision on whether or not to completely eliminate governmental restrictions on the number of media outlets that one company can own is of the utmost importance. I am a reporter with a small newspaper in Missoula, MT, and I am concerned about media conglomeration. In the past year, we in Montana have seen Lee Newspapers, Clear Channel and other out-of-state corporations take control of our media outlets. In my mind, Clear Channel's 1,200 radio stations are enough. If you overturn our regulations, I understand that Clear Channel could own not only thousands more stations, but also TV stations, newspapers, magazines and Internet news sites. Of course, this would mean less info-diversity within our media. This is not free-market capitalism; we all know it's a rigged game where the 50 largest media companies spend \$111.3 million to influence Congress and the executive branch between 1996 and 2000.

Clear Channel CEO Lowry Mays actually said recently, in an interview with Fortune Magazine, that "We're not in the business of providing news and information. We're not in the business of providing well-researched music. You've heard Viacom (CBS) Fox and NBC/Telemundo argue "[There's] no longer any public-interest need served by the Commission's ownership rules." Well there is still a need for these ownership rules, darn it. For anyone who's tired of hearing the same Britney Spears song over and over again, or for anyone who is tired of points of view outside of the mainstream being dismissed by the popular media, there is, in fact, an OBVIOUS need for ownership rules, particularly when we're dealing with owners who talk about their news and music only in terms of "product." If news stations aren't to serve the public interest in this country any more, I'm not sure I want to live in the US, and if you ask yourselves, deep down, I don't think you'd want to live in such a country either. If you dismantle our last remaining protection against media oligarchy, the result may be "monoculture," and the words of Tom Petty will unfortunately ring true: "There goes the last DJ/Who plays what he wants to play/And says what he wants to say/There goes the last human voice/There goes your freedom of choice."

Thanks for taking the time to read this, and I hope you will ensure that our media, and indeed, our democracy, remains healthy by upholding the FCC provisions that keep the public's airwaves from falling into the hands of the privileged few.

Sincerely,
Michael Keefe-Feldman
Missoula Independent
115 South 4th West
Missoula, MT 59801

From: Mike Keefe-Feldman
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Wed, Apr 30, 2003 7:32 PM
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Sincerely,
Michael Keefe-Feldman
Missoula Independent
115 South 4th West
Missoula, MT 59801

From: Lakings10@aol.com
To: Mike Powell
Date: Wed, Apr 30, 2003 8:04 PM
Subject: radio station ownership

I am not at all in favor of the new proposed changes to allow one owner to own more radio stations. This will definitely limit the amount of local programming. Even now in Baltimore when I listen to local news on Radio or TV it all sounds just like the national news. Very little local programming and local news other than on PBS stations....
thank you for allowing my input.
Elizabeth H. Kingsman

From: Lakings10@aol.com
To: Mike Powell
Date: Wed, Apr 30, 2003 8:15 PM
Subject: deregulation of cable TV

I know you believe that deregulation of cable TV will provide for more competition and lower pricing for the consumer. I for one have not seen that to be the case in the past 3 years. In fact our only cable choice has been for many years Comcast. Since 1982 the price for basic expanded cable (without any "premium channels") from Comcast has tripled in twenty years. From \$14.95 to \$47.50!!!! And today we received a notice that our \$47.50 cable bill will now increase to almost \$50.00/month!!!! Another 4% increase. So where is the savings??? and the competition??? Our choice here in Howard County, MD, in fact in most of the eastern US, is: Comcast or no cable... some competition!!!!

Thanks for not much help at all. From where I stand it appears that business, not the consumer is your main focus! If you were an elected official I would be voting for someone else and in fact will be voting for the Democrats in the 2004 election!!!!

Respectfully,
Elizabeth H. Kingsman

From: Nancya0624@aol.com
To: Mike Powell
Date: Wed, Apr 30, 2003 8:52 PM
Subject: deregulation of media companies

Dear Mr. Powell,

I urge you to initiate a public comment on the proposed changes regarding regulation of media companies and to delay decision to beyond June to allow for an appropriate public comment period. I believe that I should have a right to speak on this serious matter.

Nancy Hiestand
526 South Campus Way
Davis, CA 95616

From: Lisa Sligh Raven
To: Mike Powell
Date: Wed, Apr 30, 2003 10:00 PM
Subject: deregulation of media

Dear Mr Powell:

At this time, more than ever, it should be obvious that deregulating the media has been a dangerous and utter failure. We have seen the collapse of the free press, and the rise of propaganda as a result where the news media is concerned. We have seen black listing of music artists simply as a result of their personal opinions that are not only similar, but an exact replica of the McCarthy era, by Clear Channel who is in control of the radio waves! We have seen large corporations that have no knowledge of entertainment or the arts swallow up television stations, the vast amount of radio stations being controlled by Clear Channel, Movie studios going the same route.

There may be some kinds of businesses that are appropriate to deregulate, however, the entertainment business is not one of them. The media and press, no way. The results thus far have shown that we need to return to regulation, not to further deregulation.

If there is any hope to ensure freedom of the press, and to avoid monopolizing the media, there must be a move back to regulate them now, before it is too late.

A Very Concerned Citizen,

Lisa Sligh Raven

From: ShervSniec@aol.com
To: Mike Powell, KM KJMWEB, Kathleen Abernathy
Date: Wed, Apr 30, 2003 10:11 PM
Subject: FCC vote

Dear Commissioners:
Re: Upcoming FCC vote on media deregulation.

Further consolidation of the media in the name of "deregulation" must be halted. The media companies have failed in their public trust to provide unbiased information about most crucial issues, most notably the recent coverage of the war in Iraq.

As an American concerned about our democracy, I call on you to challenge the media conglomerates, to open the broadcast spectrum to a diverse range of journalists and opinions, and to reinstate the Fairness Doctrine. Oppose media deregulation.

Sincerely,
Judith Sherven
Judith Sherven, Ph.D. & Jim Sniechowski, Ph.D.
authors of

BE LOVED FOR WHO YOU REALLY ARE

(Renaissance/St. Martin's Press 2001)

(Paperback edition, Griffin Books 2003)

and

The New Intimacy, & Opening to Love 365 Days a Year

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From: Leanna Heiman
To: Mike Powell
Date: Wed, Apr 30, 2003 10:19 PM
Subject: Upcoming FCC vote on media deregulation

Dear Michael Powell,

Further consolidation of the media in the name of "deregulation" must be halted. The media companies have failed in their public trust to provide unbiased information about most crucial issues, most notably the recent coverage of the war in Iraq.

As an American concerned about our democracy, I call on you to challenge the media conglomerates, to open the broadcast spectrum to a diverse range of journalists and opinions, and to reinstate the Fairness Doctrine. Oppose media deregulation.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Leanna Heiman

4541 Pensacola Street

Shasta Lake, CA 96019

Email: leanna_heiman@hotmail.com

From: Judith Toor
To: Mike Powell
Date: Wed, Apr 30, 2003 10:40 PM
Subject: No Corporate monopolies of the Press

So many of us are fully aware of the immediate threat of huge corporate monopolies completely taking over the media in this country. The American public and citizenry surely deserves better than their media being used simply as propaganda sources. The only way to see that this does not occur is to stop the current monopolizing of our free media speech and news by a few. This is to me a line drawn in the sand. No country can be democratic or free if its media is owned by a few!!!!!!

Judith Toor
Pewaukee, WI 53972

From: ESchuman@aol.com
To: Mike Powell
Date: Wed, Apr 30, 2003 10:57 PM
Subject: Ownership Rules

RE Proposed ownership rule change:

More outlets are NOT an answer, when there are FEWER POINTS OF VIEW. You are choking democracy.

Do NOT allow ownership by a few of even MORE stations.

Chairman Powell, you work for the public; don't conduct business in secret. Publish and widely publicize proposed changes; delay decisions so as not to hide your plan from us -- the owners of the airways. We, not you, will decide what's best for us.

From: Dweiss2002@cs.com
To: Mike Powell
Date: Wed, Apr 30, 2003 11:47 PM
Subject: *NO* on Deregulation

Dear Commissioner:

Regarding the upcoming FCC vote, further consolidation of the media in the false name of "deregulation" must be halted and in fact reversed. TV and radio news in the hands of a handful of profit-driven corporations has undermined our democracy more than any other modern force except the high cost of broadcast commercials during elections. The media companies have failed in their public trust to provide crucial unbiased information to the public about most public issues, most notably the drive to war in Iraq. As an American concerned about our democracy, I call on you to break up the media conglomerates, to open the spectrum to a wide diversity of organizations and independent journalists, and to reinstate the Fairness Doctrine.

Thank you,

Daniel Weiss
18 Edgewood Lane
Burlington, VT 05401

From: Roy Flanigan
To: Mike Powell
Date: Wed, Apr 30, 2003 7:25 AM
Subject: Deregulation

Dear Mr. Powell,

You have received a letter from recording artists opposing further deregulation of station ownership -- that doesn't go far enough. There needs to be some way to reverse the "sterilization" of our media as a result of the mega-corporate ownership. Free speech is another casualty of having a few large corporations own so many media venues. Who in their right mind can deny that, for example, the reporting of the "news" on the Fox network must largely reflect Mr. Murdoch's political leanings? Slowly our "free press" is becoming a mouthpiece for large corporate interests... propaganda is replacing objectivity. It is your job to prevent this.

Roy Flanigan
7015 Colonial Drive
Niagara Falls, NY 14305

From: Terry Lilly
To: Mike Powell
Date: Wed, Apr 30, 2003 7:44 AM
Subject: June 2 will find your Commission half-cocked. Delay these regrettable proposals

Chairman Powell,

If the Commission decides to allow further media concentration, the resulting stampede of mergers would give a shrinking handful of large corporations much greater influence over what is reported--or ignored--in the news. The general public's ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints would be compromised. A healthy democracy is best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas.

--

Sincerely,

Terry Lilly, Photographer
StillCrazy Productions
2122 North Cahuenga Boulevard
Hollywood, CA 90028
TEL: 323-467-4343
FAX: 323-467-5288
email: terry@terrylilly.com

From: WILLIAMF HUMPHRIES
To: Mike Powell
Date: Wed, Apr 30, 2003 7:54 AM
Subject: deregulation

Dear Commissioner Powell:

I strongly urge you and Commissioners Abernathy, Copps, Martin and Adelstein to allow for much greater input by the public regarding your proposal to completely deregulate the ownership of TV and radio stations in local markets.

This idea is ill advised at best. The earlier partial deregulation has already proven it's harm to diversity, quality local programming and most alarming; the virtual elimination of divergent opinions through local public interest forum programming.

The unintended but insidious result of allowing major corporations to own as many stations as they desire is to create a monolithic TV and radio culture where the only voice heard by the people is that of the corporate ownership of those stations.

The only way to protect the public and prevent such erosion of our freedom of speech and our right to divergent opinions is to establish a fair and level playing field by requiring that no entity can own more than one TV and radio station in any single market area in the United States.

Each of you has a solemn responsibility to protect the public. That is your first priority. Please do not fail us and yourselves by allowing major corporate interests to take over the virtual control of our airwaves.

Sincerely,

William Humphries

CC: Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein

From: Ilona Forgeng
To: Mike Powell
Date: Wed, Apr 30, 2003 8:24 AM
Subject: Do not remove the cap on station ownership

I hope you will reconsider and spend more time getting public input on the relaxation of the regulatory cap on station ownership. Democracy requires diversity of viewpoints, and as the concentration of radio stations in a few hands has shown, that concentration drives out diversity.

Ilona Forgeng
6120 Shoreline Court
PO Box 4
Oriental, NC 28571

From a Statement by Nancy Snow to FCC Public Forum on Media Consolidation
University of Southern California Los Angeles,
April 28, 2003 :

About a month from today (June 2, 2003), the FCC is expected to substantially relax the regulatory cap on how many TV stations a single company may own. Right now rules bar American broadcasters from owning TV stations reaching more than 35 percent of homes. They are likely to be raised to 45 percent coverage. Further, it is very likely that rules will be lifted that limit the ability of broadcasters to buy second TV stations in their markets or bar a city's newspaper and broadcast station from merging. -- Using M2, Opera's revolutionary e-mail client:
<http://www.opera.com/m2/>

From: IGOOD1@aol.com
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Wed, Apr 30, 2003 9:25 AM
Subject: Allow equal competition

Why are you the FCC allowing Telecommunications Company competitors to lease networks at BELOW cost. Is is not enough that you have destroyed the best communications company in the world (ATT), that you now have your sights on destroying what remains of the local telephone companies.

Why don't you put your job up for less than what you are making and allow people to buy your job for less than cost. I'd buy, and I would ensure EQUAL competition in telecommunications.

Ian Goodwin

From: Gene Zipperle
To: Mike Powell
Date: Wed, Apr 30, 2003 9:26 AM
Subject: relaxation of ownership media rules

Dear Mr. Powell:

I am writing to urge you not to relax, any further, the current media ownership rule. In fact, I think you need to make them stricter to force more diversity among the stations. In my state of Kentucky, is not unusual to listen to a Clear Channel Station and have commercials run for 15 minutes straight. There are virtually no local DJ's anymore, and the playlist is the worst. Even though the sound track for "O brother where art thou" was at the top of the local charts for more than two years, I do not remember a single song from this soundtrack, being played on the local country station.

I know this attitude flies in the face of your what's good for business is good for the country mentality, but the United States is not a big corporation. It is a democracy that relies on the free flow of diverse ideas and attitudes that are often first embodied in the music of its citizens. This country will be dead if our ideals are set by the likes of Britney Spears or the Back Steet Boys.

Thanks Gene Zipperle

From: Fowler, Steve
To: Mike Powell
Date: Wed, Apr 30, 2003 9:30 AM
Subject: fcc public comment

Sir,

Further de-regulation of radio station ownership only benefits the owner's of the station. Local news is short and repetition of songs is a typical example of what the public is now getting. Free enterprise is great but aren't we close enough to a monopoly ?

Sincerely,

Steve Fowler
Citizen

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From: Georgia Dunn
To: Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, Michael Copps, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Wed, Apr 30, 2003 9:33 AM
Subject: deregulation of radio stations

I am adamantly opposed to eliminating the rules regarding the number of radio stations that a company can own. The Cincinnati and Dayton areas are two great examples of what happens when one company owns almost all of the stations. Clear Channel controls the airwaves of talk radio and their editorial stance is obvious and significant. When the public hears no other voice, then the opportunity for propaganda to be taken as fact becomes too great. WLW, for example, has nothing but conservative, almost ultra-conservative talk radio hosts who will say anything to get listeners agitated. It is not responsible and, I believe, has only exacerbated the race relations difficulties in Cincinnati. Before Clear Channel owned so many stations, we had a wider variety of music choices as well as talk radio choices.

If anything, we need to decrease the number of stations that can be owned, not increase them.

Georgia Dunn